

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

VOLUNTARY STATEMENT

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EVENT #: LLV171006001663
STATEMENT OF: Jonathon Speece

SPECIFIC CRIME:

DATE OCCURRED:

TIME OCCURRED:

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE:

CITY OF LAS VEGAS

CLARK COUNTY

NAME OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT: Speece, Jonathon

DOB: PII 1975

SOCIAL SECURITY #:

RACE:

SEX:

HEIGHT:

WEIGHT:

HAIR:

EYES:

WORK SCHEDULE:

DAYS OFF:

HOME ADDRESS:

PHONE 1:

WORK ADDRESS:

PHONE 2:

The following is the transcription of a tape-recorded interview conducted by DETECTIVE C. Gowens, P# 14883, LVMPD MAJOR VIOLATORS/NARCOTICS CRIMES BUREAU on October 6, 2017 at 1235 hours. Also present is DETECTIVE N. Larios, P# 7166.

CG: All right. This is gonna be an interview with Jonathon Speece. I'm Detective Gowens, P Number 14883. With me is Detective Larios, P Number 7166. The time is 1235 hours. It's gonna be under Las Vegas, LVMPD Event Number 171006-1663. The location of the interview is Mesquite Police Department, 695 Mayan Circle, Mesquite, Nevada, 89027. Jonathon, could you, uh, spell your name for me, please?

JS: J-O-N-A-T-H-O-N, S-P-E-E-C-E.

CG: And Jonathon, what is your date of birth?

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JS: PII /75.

CG: Okay. All right, Jonathon, so how long have you been working at Guns & Guitars?

JS: Officially working, a couple months; have been affiliated with them a little over a year.

CG: Okay.

JS: Mm-hmm.

CG: Okay. And within that timeframe, how many times do you, would you say that you've come, come into contact with Stephen Paddock?

JS: I saw Stephen Paddocks[SIC] twice in April when he dropped off some rifles for cleaning and pickup.

CG: Okay.

JS: And then, uh, twice, uh, this, or month of September.

CG: Okay.

JS: When he, first time in September, he just got back from Reno, is the way he explained it to me. We had some money for him for a consignment gun, a Steyr that we sold for him. And that's when he inquired about the Ruger, the .308 that's on the wall. And then a little bit, a week later, since Chris was on a honeymoon, he says, "Oh, I'll come back," and that's when he, uh, purchased a rifle.

CG: Okay.

JS: So I saw him a total of four times.

CG: Okay. And what rifle was it that he purchased the last time?

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JS: The Ruger American .308 bolt action.

CG: Okay. All right. Do you remember the, uh, any of the other, uh, rifles or firearms that he had purchased?

JS: (Coughs) Excuse me. Um, I never saw him purchase any other ones. I just know Sig, a Sig rifle is one of them, 'cause that was one of the first rifles that was asked about. I know he purchased a handgun, but I wasn't there for any of those purchases. I just vaguely remember the Sig because I was the one who looked up some of the, uh, ATF book, you know, info, just to verify that it was him.

CG: Okay. Uh, now you said he had a Steyr on consignment.

JS: Yes.

CG: Is that correct? Do you know who purchased the Steyr?

JS: I can't remember.

CG: Okay. All right. Did you ever meet, uh, Mr. Paddock prior to?

JS: No.

CG: Prior to (unintelligible)—?

JS: The only time I ever saw him was at the store.

CG: Okay.

JS: Never saw him at any other location or anything else.

CG: Okay. While he was there, what was the general topic of conversation? Uh, was it just related to firearms?

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JS: Just, you know, what do I like, what do I recommend, what's on sale, how's business, so just like a normal customer.

CG: Okay. In terms of recommendations, did he say what he was looking for?

JS: Uh, the day when Chris first sold to him, it was on his honeymoon, he specifically asked, "Hey, what do you have in .308?" I was like, "Uh, we only got one bolt action, and yours that's on consignment," so of course he wasn't gonna buy his.

CG: Okay.

JS: 'Cause he had, uh, a DPMS Panther .308 on consignment with us.

CG: Okay. Um, in addition to the Steyr?

JS: Yes.

CG: Okay. All right. Um, the .308 that was also there, that was a Ruger, I'm assuming?

JS: The bolt action.

CG: The bolt action that he—

JS: The one that he did—

CG: —wound up eventually purchasing?

JS: That he did purchase, yes.

CG: Okay.

JS: He purchased it on the 28th.

CG: Okay. All right. When—again, going back to the recommendation—did he say, "Hey, I'm looking—I'm a hunter, I'm looking to hunt, I'm looking to target shoot, what would you recommend?" Or what direction was he—?

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JS: Oh, he said he just wanted a .308.

CG: Okay.

JS: And he didn't make any specifications why.

CG: Okay.

JS: He just, he was just specific about cartridge.

CG: Okay. And based on your knowledge, what is a .308 cartridge or round usually, typically—what, what would that be associated with?

JS: Long-range.

CG: Long-range shooting?

JS: Mm-hmm.

CG: Okay. Okay. Um, did he ever come into Guns & Guitars with anyone else, or did you ever see anyone else outside waiting for him, or?

JS: I never saw anyone else with him.

CG: Okay.

JS: I mean, Chris said one time, his wife was out in the car and stuck her head in the door, but—

CG: Okay.

JS: —other than that, I've never seen anybody else with him or him talking to anybody.

CG: Okay. Did you ever hear, prior to or since, places that he frequents or hangs out or—?

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JS: I heard he hangs out at Stateline Casino. I heard people in the community talk about him, seeing him at Casablanca—was it the Virgin River, I think, someone said they, you know, some people seen him there.

CG: Okay.

JS: But that's about it.

CG: Okay.

JS: I guess he was at Wedgies Sports Bar a couple times, but all the bartenders that I know, they never saw him before.

CG: Okay. In terms of, uh, shooting, does he seem like the type of person to go out and shoot by himself, or do you think that he's the type of person that would go, like, go to the range with a buddy, or?

JS: Uh, the day in April when he brought his rifles in for cleaning, he made it sound like he was by himself, and we never asked if he was with somebody or what. He just said that he ran a lotta rounds—

CG: Okay.

JS: —you know, through each one of them, and wanted Chris to clean 'em.

CG: Okay. Did you ever t—help, help or assist with the cleaning or anything like that?

JS: I didn't help, but I, you know, Chris showed me every single one to pull 'em all out, and none of 'em are cheap.

CG: Okay.

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JS: They were all—I think the cheapest one was, like, worth, like seventeen hundred dollars, I think.

CG: All right, now—

JS: So they were all high end, combination of .308 and .556 AR platforms.

CG: Okay. Would that—were, were any of 'em, were they factory, or were—did he have anything done, any coating done to the bolt carriers, or (unintelligible) or—

JS: No, just quick glance at 'em, they all looked, you know, factory stocked.

CG: Okay. All right. Did he ever ask or inquire about anyone doing any type of gunsmithing or machine work?

JS: No.

CG: No? Okay. Did he ever have any questions pertaining to mounting accessories or anything like that?

JS: No.

CG: No? All right.

NL: Uh, Detect—this is Detective Larios. Jonathon, so as you—we kinda mentioned at the beginning, we're conducting an investigation with, uh, Stephen Paddock and the events at the Mandalay Bay. Um, as my partner already asked you some questions, um, I just wanted to clarify some certain things. Uh, so the Ruger .308 that he ultimately purchased on September 28th—you're not the person that actually sold him the gun and transferred it to him?

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JS: Chris did, uh, the paperwork, the background check, and started the payment, and then when Steve came, I had him sign the receipt, and I handed him the rifle.

NL: Okay, so you were there when the actual transfer took place?

JS: Yes.

NL: And, and if I understand correctly, um, while, uh, Chris Sullivan, who is, uh, the manager of Guns & Guitars, is that correct?

JS: General, general manager.

NL: General manager—he was gone the week prior to when the actual gun was sold, or he was on a honeymoon?

JS: The—he, Chris was gone the week where he inquired it.

NL: Okay.

JS: 'Cause Chris was on his honeymoon, 'cause he got married on September 9th.

NL: Okay, so you had interaction with Paddock when he was inquiring about that Ruger .308?

JS: Correct.

NL: Um, Chris was on his honeymoon, but, uh, that's not when the transfer took place. It took place when Chris returned?

JS: Yes.

NL: Is that correct? Okay. Um, you said you—you saw him twice in September as well? Um, did you clean any—did anybody clean any rifles for him then?

JS: No.

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NL: No? That was just in April, you believe, or?

JS: Yeah, April's the last time he brought anything in for cleaning.

NL: Okay.

JS: And then the week that I saw him during Chris's honeymoon, he stated that he just got back from Reno.

NL: Okay.

JS: 'Cause he stayed up in Reno the entire summer.

NL: And that was the week before he bought the Ruger?

JS: Yes.

NL: Okay. Where are you currently living right now, uh, Jonathon?

JS: I live at, uh, 3315 Gold Butte Road in Bunkerville, 89007.

NL: Okay. And not to get into, uh, other investigations or anything that's already happened, I just want to clarify some certain things and just ask you directly. Um, the place where you live, is that, uh, related to Cliven Bundy?

JS: Yes.

NL: Okay.

JS: It's their property that I live on.

NL: Okay. Have you ever seen Stephen Paddock related at all or shown up to anything that you might have been involved in, in the past?

JS: No, I have not.

NL: Okay. So any time you saw Stephen, it was just in a professional capacity?

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JS: Correct.

NL: Okay. And when do you—when do you believe you actually, I guess, uh, met him?

JS: It was sometime in April—I don't remember the exact date—but I saw him when he dropped 'em off and saw him when he picked 'em up, 'cause, uh, Chris always gave me works in doing gunsmithing before I actually moved into their store.

NL: Okay.

JS: And so I was at Guns & Guitars three or four times a week, and I just happened to see him those two times in April.

NL: Okay, fair enough. What does, uh, how long have you known, uh, Chris Sullivan?

JS: Probably almost two years, maybe.

NL: Okay. Um, what is, what—what's your title, I guess, now, officially there?

JS: I'm a gunsmith.

NL: You're a gunsmith. Who else works there at the Guns & Guitars?

JS: His dad, Mike Sullivan, shows up every once and a while to work on guitars. Christopher Sullivan is the general manager, so he's there all the time, and, um, past couple months, especially when Chris was gone for his wedding and his honeymoon, I ran the store by myself during that time, and, but now, so I'm there five days a week now, so it's just me and Chris.

NL: What about, uh, his wife?

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JS: She worked a few Mondays, um—that was a while back—but it was like, uh, January she was working there on a Monday, I believe, while Shot Show was going on.

NL: Okay. What is—what's her name?

JS: Uh, Jennifer Perry at the time, but it's now, you know, Jennifer Sullivan.

NL: Okay.

JS: But, uh, we call her Jenny.

NL: Okay. So my partner and I were there on, uh, on Monday of this week, and, uh, I think that was Jenny—was she present there also at the gun store—?

JS: Yes, she was the blonde-headed lady.

NL: Okay, I think that's when we saw you. Um, so does she work there periodically now that 'cause she's his wife, kinda thing?

JS: No, she's full-time at the DMV right now.

NL: Okay. So, have you—how long has he been, I guess, with Jenny—Chris?

JS: Uh, years, 'cause they only—they've only lived here a little over two years. Uh, they moved from New Hampshire, and they were dating in New Hampshire for several years.

NL: Okay.

JS: I don't know how long they were dating.

NL: Do you have any ties to New Hampshire?

JS: No.

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NL: Okay, you never, never been there?

JS: No.

NL: Okay.

JS: I mean, I've met people that were from there that travelled this way, but—

NL: Okay.

JS: I've never visited, never lived there.

NL: Okay. And you know, the reasoning for the some of these questions, I'm trying to get a complete picture of people's—

JS: Yeah, I understand.

NL: —relationships to each other. Um, like I mentioned, this is not anything to trip you up. It's just, we're trying to find out the truth of, of everything and people, how they relate to each other. Um, like I said, nothing to try to get you in any sorta trouble, 'cause you're not, not doing anything wrong, right?

JS: Right.

NL: Okay. All right, uh, so you were kinda hanging around for the last year at Guns & Guitars, that's—

JS: Yes.

NL: —if I understand correctly? Um, and you're gunsmithing now?

JS: Yes.

NL: All right.

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JS: I also—a certified RSO, so I do, uh, Range Safety Officer for Chris when teaches his gun classes.

NL: Oh, okay. Is that through NRA, or?

JS: Yes.

NL: All right, so you're a certified range instructor?

JS: Uh, Range Safety Officer.

NL: Range Safety Officer, all right. Have you ever taken Steve Paddock out shooting at all?

JS: No.

NL: Okay. And do you know anybody that's actually hung out with this guy, ever?

JS: Not really.

NL: No?

JS: Everybody, you know, just chitchattin' in local hangouts, people said that they saw him alone or saw him with this girlfriend.

NL: Okay. Did they see him with anybody else, or? I guess, who would be a good person if we needed to talk to them about Stephen Paddock, who would we talk to?

JS: No one really knew, it seemed like, except for, his neighbor kinda did.

NL: Okay.

JS: From my understanding, but I don't even know who his neighbor is.

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NL: Okay. Is this—are you basing this on, like, media coverage, or are you basing this on—?

JS: No, based off of community talk, you know.

NL: Okay.

JS: Sitting at the bar and people talking about it, and—

NL: And how big is Mesquite? You know, it's—not too familiar with it, but I guess—

JS: I'm not even sure what the population is. I just know it's the number one growing city in Nevada, that's all I know.

NL: Yeah.

JS: Mm-hmm.

NL: All right. But it's still considered, I guess, a small town?

JS: Yes, mm-hmm.

NL: All right. People know each other's business?

JS: That's it. (Unintelligible) Yeah, it's one of those small town things, everybody knows a little bit about something.

NL: Yeah.

JS: And chatter spreads pretty fast.

NL: People try to know each other's business—not a lot go—nothing else going on, right? So—

JS: Right.

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NL: All right. Um, so aside from the .308, were you ever present during any other transfers?

JS: No, I wasn't.

NL: Okay. So it's just that one.

JS: Right.

NL: And you never handled the sales, with the exception of the three—you did actually interact with him when he actually sold to him?

JS: Yeah, he—

NL: And physically ha—?

JS: I handed him the receipt, signed it, gave him his credit card, or debit card, back, and I handed him the rifle inside the box.

NL: Okay. All right. Um, those AR-15 platforms you're referring to, the .308s and the stuff that has been cleaned there that you've, you've observed, um, did any of them have the bump stocks on them?

JS: No, they didn't.

NL: Okay. They were—can you describe the stocks if you remem—if you recall?

JS: Just regular collapsible stocks.

NL: Okay. So they weren't—anything that was sold to him, or that you're aware of, I guess—did, uh, did Chris ever mention that, "Hey, he wants, he asked me about bump stocks" or sold 'em or?

JS: No.

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NL: Anything like that? Has he ever asked you about bump stocks?

JS: No.

NL: Okay. Has he ever asked you anything about, like, machine guns in general?

JS: No.

NL: Or how they work or how they function?

JS: No.

NL: Okay. So if, uh—where did he mention that he would go out shooting to, if he did?

JS: Uh, he just said out in the desert.

NL: Where's the number one place, I guess, people in Mesquite go shooting at?

JS: For basic shooting, there's a couple spots off of Riverside Road.

NL: Okay.

JS: But I doubt he went there. If he's, you know, if he's working on long range. So I would doubt he would go there, 'cause those were just small areas with (unintelligible).

NL: So more for, like, pistol shooting and shotgun stuff?

JS: Yeah.

NL: Where would a person go and shoot, I guess, their rifles?

JS: My—I haven't been there—my understanding, uh, where the landfill is—

NL: Mm-hmm.

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JS: —there's, uh, a few hundred yards that are marked off that the people kinda designate it as a community range. I hear a lotta people talk about it. I guess there's a table set up and everything.

NL: It's by the landfill?

JS: Yes.

NL: Is, so it's like common knowledge type of place, like a—?

JS: Yeah. I just never went there because I—I go out towards Bunkerville all the time when I go.

NL: Okay. How—how big of a town is Bunkerville?

JS: Bunkerville's really small. It's got a post office and a school, and the rest is residential.

NL: Okay. Do you know what kind of vehicles Stephen Paddock had?

JS: I think—

NL: And I'm—and I'm referring to your personal knowledge.

JS: I saw it—I saw it once, and it looked like an older, I'm not sure what year, but, like, Odyssey minivan style.

NL: But did you recognize his car if you saw, like, type thing, or you know, "Hey, that's Paddock's car?"

JS: I wouldn't recognize it if I saw it again.

NL: Okay. Did you ever run into him out in Bunkerville, like, just in passing?

JS: No, not that I recall.

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NL: Like were you maybe going out shooting over there or anything like that?

JS: No.

NL: Okay.

JS: 'Cause I go shooting on my private property.

NL: Mm-hmm.

JS: So no one else knows where I go shooting yet. (Laughs)

NL: Okay, all right. And like I said, I'm just trying to see if other people have—where his, his whereabouts and his travels, you know, uh, anything that might help us—

JS: Speculation, you know, that I've heard chatter that, uh, he possibly went to Clark County Shooting Complex.

NL: Up there in, uh, Las Vegas?

JS: North of, off of Decatur.

NL: Okay.

JS: I got a friend who used to be a Range Safety Officer; when he saw the pictures, he sent me a message, says, "I think I've seen him at," you know, "Clark County Shooting Range."

NL: Okay.

JS: But he wa—but he wasn't real sure.

NL: Okay. No, I appreciate you telling us that.

JS: Hmm.

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NL: You know, that's something definitely we'd want to find out about. Um, that's all I have for right now. Detective Gowens?

CG: Yeah, just, uh, a few follow-up questions, and you briefly, uh, talked about to a degree. As far as the shooting rifles or long-range rifles, would—is there a place or location that someone could go, or that'd be the most convenient place for someone to go if they wanted to shoot automatic rifles? 'Cause obviously, you wouldn't want to go to one of these ranges.

JS: You know—

CG: Or just go out to the desert—is there a location that—

JS: For automatic, there's—I never heard any chatter nearby. Uh, I mean, an extreme long-range, I heard there's a twelve-hundred-yard setup in La Verkin, Utah. But other than that, I mean, I never anybody talking about full, shooting full auto anywhere nearby.

CG: Okay. If you were to go shoot—if you have fully auto and you didn't want anyone—you'd probably shoot on your property—but if you're a local and you didn't have the access to the property that you have, is there a location in the desert or off the road (unintelligible) that'd be probably pretty convenient to get there or wouldn't be a hassle or?

JS: Um, well, 'cause I know a lotta long-range shooters, and I tell them, you know, heading east from Bunkerville, I mean, there's, like, just open space, you know.

CG: Okay.

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JS: Just the public lands, and I tell them there's no firearms restrictions, you know, for shooting there. You just gotta be careful for people who are off-roading or hiking.

CG: Okay.

JS: And there's a lot of, you know, level land there, and there's a lotta natural (unintelligible), but, and other than the two spots off of Riverside Road, I don't know of anything else that's designated—

NL: Okay.

JS: —as a shooting area.

CG: Do you know if—okay, and this is gonna be unrelated to the firearms, did you have anything with the firearms?

NL: No, go ahead.

CG: Um, so I've heard that he gambles, uh, which would be Casablanca, you said Virgin River—do they have gambling there, or?

JS: Yeah, Virgin River, Eureka, and Casablanca are the three major casinos here, and there's two small Dotty's casinos; um, Golden West, Stateline, and Wedgies are, you know, the bars/casinos.

CG: Okay. Uh, do you know if he, was he a drinker, did he drink, did you hear people saying he, he drank, or he just, just gambled?

JS: I saw a picture with, you know, floating on the internet, with hol—with him holding an alcoholic beverage, but other than that, I don't know.

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CG: Okay. All right. Which—which one of, uh, which were these—so Casablanca's right over here—Virgin River is where?

JS: Virgin River and Eureka are on, uh, what's that, Sandhill? So, it's like a big loop. So you got Pioneer one side, and, uh, Mesquite Boulevard other side, so Eureka and Virgin River is where Pioneer turns—I think that's Sandhill, I think.

CG: Are, are any of these close to any ranges?

JS: No.

CG: No? Okay. All right.

NL: Are there any official ranges in Mesquite, like?

JS: Not in Mesquite.

NL: Open to the general public?

JS: I mean, like I said, there's that community thing that people set up over by the landfill, and their shooting range is strictly pistol and shotgun. That's Smokin' Guns just over the Arizona border in, uh, Littlefield/Scenic. Smokin' Guns is owned by the same people who own MXP1, the (unintelligible) track; that's behind the Palms Golf Course. But since it's strictly pistol and shotgun field, I really doubt he went there.

CG: Littlefield?

JS: Yes, in Littlefield. You know, it's like, Littlefield and Scenic are, like, right next to each other.

NL: On, on the way to St. George, right, in between here and St. George?

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JS: Well if you—so do you know where the, have you seen the Smith's grocery store?

NL: Um—

JS: So you got, there's a restaurant called Pegasus and the Mesquite City Hall is on the same road—

NL: Okay.

JS: —as Smith's, so if you're going on that road, it crosses the Stateline, and then you'll see a Polaris shop, and then, uh, Palms Golf Course. You turn like you're going to go into the golf course, but you continue on—you'll see a Mesquite, they call it Mesquite Arena for rodeo.

NL: Uh-huh.

JS: But it's technically on the Arizona border, but, and then you go on and you'll see—everything's called Mesquite there because, you know, no one's ever heard of Littlefield.

NL: Okay.

JS; And so there's a Mesquite Arena, there is a Mesquite MXP1, and then the Smokin' Guns is directly behind the, the BMX track.

NL: Okay. But that's the closest real, I guess, range open to the public, and it's only a pistol and shotgun range?

JS: Right.

CG: Do the—do they sell firearm accessories or ammo or anything out there?

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JS: In Arizona? No. Uh, accessories—I don't know about ammo. I don't recall seeing ammo there, but, like, cleaning kits, hol—you know.

CG: Okay.

NL: Did he ever buy ammo through Guns & Guitars that you're, that you're aware of?

JS: No, no.

NL: Okay. Do you guys sell ammo there?

JS: Yeah, we sell ammo there.

NL: Okay.

JS: But he's never asked about ammo.

NL: Okay. All right.

CG: Uh, there's a Mr. Pawn gun shop here, where they, they sell guns?

JS: Correct.

CG: Is there any other place they sell guns in Mesquite?

JS: No.

CG: Okay.

JS: I've been in the pawn shop twice, you know, it's almost all used guns there. Uh, they carry some ammo, not a whole lot.

CG: Okay.

NL: That's it.

CG: All right. This concludes the interview with Jonathon Speece. The time is 1305 hours. All parties present.

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

VOLUNTARY STATEMENT

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EVENT #: LLV171006001663
STATEMENT OF: Jonathon Speece

THIS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT WAS COMPLETED AT 695 Mayan Circle, Mesquite, Nevada 89027 ON THE 6th DAY OF October, 2017 at 1305 hours.

Transcribed by J. Belmonte, P# 14991 on October 9th, 2017 at 1648 hours.

PII

Personal Identifying Information

The record(s) you seek contain personal identifying information.

NRS 239.001 provides that public records are open to inspection. However, NRS 239.010(1) expressly creates exemptions to the disclosure of records falling under various statutes, including NRS 239B.030. NRS 239B.030 makes “personal information” confidential. NRS 603A.040 defines “personal information” to include social security numbers, driver’s license numbers, account numbers, and the like.

Here, because the record(s) you seek contain confidential personal identifying information, they have been redacted.

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